

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the support member and the clutch are axially arranged to each other.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the drive gear is located in radial alignment with the support member.

Claim 5 (previously presented) A differential comprising:
a drive gear;
a differential housing rotatable relative to the drive gear and operative to be driven by the drive gear;

a differential mechanism housed in the differential housing and being rotatable by the differential housing;

a support member located between the drive gear and the differential housing for supporting the drive gear to the differential housing for relative rotation; and

a clutch operative to interconnect the drive gear and the differential housing with each other, the clutch including:

a first clutch engageable between the drive gear and the differential housing, and
an actuator for operating the first clutch,

wherein the first clutch is located axially between the support member and the actuator.

Claim 6 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the support member supports at least two points of the drive gear.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the drive gear axially has an end, the actuator is located at the end, and the first clutch is located axially back from the end.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the support member is located in alignment with the clutch.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the actuator comprises:

a second clutch for transmitting a drive torque from the drive gear; and
a converter provided between the first and second clutches for converting a drive torque to a thrust force and for engaging the first clutch.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 9, wherein the actuator further comprises an electromagnetic system for engaging the second clutch.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 10, wherein the electromagnetic system comprises:

a core; and
a rotor located between the core and the second clutch for magnetically conducting therebetween, the rotor being supported on the differential housing.

Claim 12 (original) A differential according to claim 9, wherein the converter comprises: a cam mechanism configured to be operated by the second clutch.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A differential according to claim 9, wherein the second clutch comprises:

first clutch plates connected to a ~~torque transmission member~~ drive gear, the first clutch plates being spaced from each other; and

second plates connected to the converter, respective second clutch plates being slidably interposed between respective first clutch plates.

Claim 14 (original) A differential according to claim 13, wherein the first clutch plates are spaced radially from the converter.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A differential according to claim 13, wherein the second clutch plates are spaced radially from the ~~torque transmission member~~ drive gear.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 10, wherein the electromagnet system further comprises: an armature configured to be attracted for pressing and engaging with the second clutch.

Claim 17 (original) A differential according to claim 11, wherein the rotor has openings each extending within an angular range, the openings being angularly spaced from each other and being located radially inward of a coil of the electromagnet system.

Claim 18 (original) A differential according to claim 17, wherein the openings face a core of the electromagnet system.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A differential according to claim 5, wherein the support member comprises: bearings arranged in axial alignment with each other.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A differential system comprising:
a reduction gear;
a drive gear operative to be driven by the reduction gear;
a differential housing rotatable relative to the drive gear and being operative to be driven by the drive gear;
a differential mechanism housed in the differential housing and being rotatable by the differential housing;
a support member located between the drive gear and the differential housing for supporting the drive gear to the differential housing for relative rotation; and
a clutch operative to interconnect the drive gear and the differential housing with each other,
wherein the clutch includes a first clutch engageable between the drive gear and the differential housing, and an actuator for operating the first clutch, and
wherein the first clutch is located axially between the support member and the actuator.

Claims 21-22 (canceled)